ADEQ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Meeting Minutes

Klondyke Tailings
Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Community Advisory Board Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2006
Graham County General Services Building
921 Thatcher Blvd., 2nd Floor Conference Rm.
Safford, Arizona

OU# 06-161

CAB members present: Mark Haberstich (co-chair), Lynn Skinner (co-chair), Michael Bryce, Noralea Gale, Lauralea Bott, and Bill Griffin

Members absent**:** John Luepke, Mark Herrington

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Scott Goodwin (Project Manager), Linda Mariner (Community Involvement Coordinator), and Mel Taylor (SE Community Liaison)

Members of the public present: Matthew Beversdorf, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)

The meeting began at 4:20 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
Mr. Haberstich opened the meeting. Introductions of Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, ADEQ staff, and members of the public were made.

2. Acceptance or changes to the October 6, 2005 draft minutes
Ms. Gale moved and Mr. Skinner seconded for the minutes to be accepted as written. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. Update of Current Status and Activities – Scott Goodwin
Mr. Goodwin displayed a large map and showed where four new monitoring wells have been installed. He explained that they have been sampled twice and show some minor indications of lead in two of them. Water quality in the area still looked good.

Soil samples were also recently taken. Mr. Goodwin stated that since Mr. Griffin does not plan on living on his property, if the lead value for the soil samples on his property were 2000 mg/kg, no remedial action by ADEQ would be required. Two owners of residential properties around the site allowed them to sample their soil, and the results were displayed on the map. Problem areas

were found north of the tailings piles with wind blown deposition. Mr. Goodwin stated that any lead value on residential land higher than 400 mg/kg would require some kind of action be taken. Mr. Goodwin informed the CAB that he was still waiting to hear from several residents to get access to sample their property.

Mr. Bryce asked if it was certain that the high lead results were from windblown deposits versus the flow down Laurel Creek. Mr. Goodwin replied that it was just a guess because both creeks seemed to be flushing themselves according to the data, but it's not certain that it was windblown. Another question was asked about whether the soil samples away from the tailings piles were higher in lead value than the tailings piles themselves. Mr. Goodwin responded that they were not higher. Mr. Haberstich asked how the samples were taken. Mr. Goodwin explained that they were just surface samples of about 6 inches deep. Mr. Goodwin noted that the remedial investigation will address how much of the lead contamination needs to come back to the tailings piles rather than to determine exactly how it got there. Mr. Goodwin plans to reduce the map and send it to the rest of the property owners to show evidence that there may be lead contamination from the tailings on their property. He hopes this will encourage them to allow ADEQ access to sample their soil.

Ms. Gale asked if there might be lead contamination on her property across the creek as well. Mr. Goodwin stated that he guessed that the other side of the creek was clear because the creek bed was clean, but that data wasn't on the map yet. He stated that it may be another six months before all the property owners give permission to do sampling on their land.

Mr. Skinner asked what the dimensions of the grid squares were on the map. Mr. Goodwin replied that each was 50 feet square. Mr. Goodwin's original hope was that the contamination was limited to Mr. Griffin's property. However, this soil data showing further contamination will delay the investigation because each owner may want their property treated differently. Mr. Haberstich asked if the property owners wanted their property cleaned up, would they become part of this WQARF project. Mr. Goodwin replied that ADEQ can't force them to have it cleaned up.

Mr. Skinner wondered if the sampling would extend farther than the map showed. Mr. Goodwin plans to sample far enough out so that the lead numbers come down again to the 400 mg/kg limit. Mr. Goodwin explained that the blue values on the map were below the limit and the red ones were of concern because they were above the limit. Those that had a zero value on the map meant that sampling hadn't occurred yet on that grid area. A CAB member asked how much soil was in each sample. Mr. Goodwin suggested it was really just a scoop going about 3 inches deep that would fill a 4 oz. jar. He also reminded the CAB that this map showed only the lead results from the soil samples. Also found in the sampling were some copper, mercury, and antimony over the standards. The CAB asked if there was any gold found in the samples. Mr. Goodwin responded that no gold appeared in the data.

4. Community Drinking Water Well Survey – Matt Beversdorf

Mr. Beversdorf presented a slide show that outlined the findings of the recent well survey done in Klondyke to find all the wells in the project area. The inventory began on September 26, 2005 with a focus on a 10-mile square area around the tailings, and it was completed on September 30, 2005. The well inventory process included the following:

- Identification of all wells located within 1 mile from the WQARF site
- Matching well-identifiers between multiple data sources
- Verification in the field of all locatable wells and determination of current status

- Collection of GPS location measurements for each well
- Administrative registration of all wells previously not registered
- Compilation of updated well information for ADEQ
- Updating ADWR well registry and groundwater site inventory database

After researching all available databases, ADWR staff concluded there were 69 wells in Klondyke that they needed to locate in the field. After matching 11 more in the field with already identified wells, 58 wells were left to find. Only 36 of those wells were found, but the following information was collected for each of these wells:

- Well ownership
- Site use
- Well and water use
- Well construction and well status
- Geographic position data with hand held GPS unit
- Digital image of each well

This information was collected for a total of 61 field wells because there were a few done outside of the project area. Mr. Beversdorf also distributed a map of the well locations showing their "reported versus actual locations". He stated that a full report of the findings would be completed soon and submitted to ADEQ for use in the remedial investigation.

Questions: Mr. Haberstich asked if they also looked at the depth of the wells. Mr. Beversdorf replied that ADWR did not physically measure the depth of the wells.

5. Discussion and Review of Charter – Linda Mariner

Ms. Mariner inquired if all members of the CAB had received their packets of information containing the revised charter that was voted on at the last meeting. They replied in the affirmative. She then asked if there was any further discussion regarding the changes to the charter from the last meeting. CAB members verified that the approved changes had been made to the charter, and both co-chairs then signed the charter to make it official. Ms. Mariner asked if anyone wanted her to send them a signed copy of the charter for their notebooks, but everyone declined. Ms. Mariner responded that she would send only the two co-chairs a signed copy of the approved charter.

6. Call to public

Mr. Taylor asked what the overall plans for the site were. Mr. Goodwin explained that the general concept for the clean up after the remedial investigation was complete is: 1) to consolidate all the tailings that had gotten away from the piles, and perhaps even move the piles themselves away from the creek; 2) the piles would most likely be capped; and finally, 3) some kind of flood control would be provided to protect the piles from eroding into the creek. Mr. Haberstich asked how the clean up of the tailings contamination on individual properties off-site might be done. Mr. Goodwin's concern involved the amount of mesquite trees in the area. He said that he didn't want to take down a lot of mesquite trees in order to get to the contamination. So he would look into other options to work around the trees rather than clear cut all the mesquite. But there were still many options to look at. Mr. Taylor asked if the tailings were visible in the natural soil. Mr. Goodwin's answer was that they are not recognizable in the natural soil.

Mr. Griffin commented that during the last storm with a 2-4" rainfall, there was some serious run off from Laurel Creek onto his property between the tailings piles. Mr. Goodwin acknowledged

that preliminary sketches of the flood plains done by the contractor for both creeks showed possible runoff problems. Mr. Haberstich asked if there was money to do some temporary stabilizing projects on the piles; such as putting tarp on the piles to protect them from the wind or rain. Mr. Goodwin explained that there was enough salinity in the tailings to keep a good crust on the piles right now that keeps them stable. In the past, lots of activities on the piles could have contributed to dispersing the tailings off-site, but now the piles have been secured from public traffic. Mr. Goodwin said he would appreciate being notified when and if the wind became severe enough to blow the tailings off the piles.

Mr. Haberstich asked regarding some 50-gallon drums he'd seen on site. Mr. Goodwin explained that they were full of the cuttings from drilling the wells.

7. Future meeting plans

The next CAB meeting was set for Thursday, September 7, 2006 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Klondyke Schoolhouse in Klondyke. Proposed agenda items for the next meeting included geophysical survey results, continuation of the surface soil sampling results, review of the updated community involvement plan, and an update on the University of Arizona's revegetation study.

Ms. Gale made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Skinner seconded. It was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.